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that has disgraced Illinois was fostered and encouraged by the neglect of their elementary duties by officials dishonest, politics ridden or lazy. It will not be duplicated in any community that insists on honesty and efficiency in the administration of its civic affairs.

The "problems created by the influx of negroes from the South" are not new or intricate. They can be solved, so far as violence is likely to arise from them, by maintaining the peace and enforcing the laws impartially and all the time. In every instance in which disorders of long duration have afflicted American towns and cities, the cause has been the same: corruption and weakness where integrity and strength are needed.

Welcome to the Russian Commissioners.

In welcoming the Russian Commissioners to-day New York, the commercial capital of the oldest republic, extends the right hand of fellowship to the youngest republic of all.

That is the especial and peculiar reason why our welcome should be both hearty and sincere. It is extended not only to the representatives of a nation allied with us in the prosecution of a war for humanity and for democracy, but to a nation newly enrolled in that roster of self-governing republics which is steadily growing, and which as the result of this war will be mightily extended. Russia to-day is doubly our brother—our brother in arms, our brother in upholding republican principles.

There are in Greater New York 485,000 native born Russians, and of their children of the first generation 250,000 more. How many of this huge body of expatriates would have been saved to Russia had the autocratic government of the Czar been overthrown a quarter of a century ago? It was the Imperial Government that encouraged the massacres, or pogroms, that drove the Jews out of Russia. It was the heavy hand of autocracy that so limited and hedged about opportunities for employment that economic conditions drove these thousands hither seeking a livelihood. Here they have been industrious, thrifty and of an ever increasing prosperity.

Restless and active of intellect, whatever his economic or social standing, the Russian has found in the freedom of thought and speech here permitted an opportunity for the fullest development of his intellectual powers. Always he has kept in touch with the revolutionary movement in his old home, encouraging, and according to his means, sustaining it. To-day our Russian citizens will see in the envoys from their former home the tangible evidence of the success of the revolution they have so long preached.

While New York entertains the Russian Commission Petrograd listens to the American Commissioners headed by an eminent citizen of this community. We trust that such of our Russian American citizens as may to-day be brought into personal touch with our guests will leave nothing undone to impress them with the high character and sincerity of purpose of our commission to their country. Russia is now a factor of the greatest importance in the war, a figure of commanding prominence in the fight for democracy. The closer the cooperation between her Government and ours, the more thorough the understanding between the two peoples, the better for republican principles throughout the world.

We warmly welcome the Russian Commissioners and hope and believe that their visit to this city will make for the wide extension of democracy.

Secret Communication.

The attacks on the transports bearing our soldiers to France are attributed to the spy communication with Berlin, and there is a cry for sterner precautions against the sending abroad of spy information. Of course every precaution that can be taken should be taken; nevertheless it will be impossible to stop entirely the forwarding of military intelligence to Germany.

The danger does not lie in the use of cipher messages. No cipher ever invented by man is inviolable. A cipher requires a rational foundation. It can be read by reasoning and usually by the application of mathematical principles, including the law of frequency utilized by Fox in "The Gold Bug." A pun is frequently more successful than an out and out disguise, as in the case of Sir CHARLES NAPIER, who, confronted with the problem of getting back word of his victory at Hyderabad in 1843, happily hit upon the expedient of a single Latin word. "Peccavi," he wrote, and the good tidings were correctly interpreted at their destination: "I have sinned (Sindeo)."

Any sort of cipher, code, allusion or pun can be and will be found out. Such is the sharpness of the lookout maintained for these things that the occasional innocent quotation is in danger. There has been much mischief over the censorship which struck from a correspondent's citation of a line in Kipling's "Recessional":

"The captains and the kings depart" the word "kings." But the censor acted rightly. He was also in the right when he edited a couplet quoted from BOWEN'S "Soliloquy in a Spanish Cloister." The lines run:

"Twenty-nine distinct damnations One sure if another fails."

They were used to illustrate an attack with poison gas, fire bombs and other specially devised terrors. The censor substituted "different" for "twenty-nine." Indeed, "twenty-nine"

may have approximated too closely to the exact number of new inventions put to use.

The great advantage of a cipher lies in the fact that it can be memorized and reconstructed. Therefore sender and recipient need carry no memoranda which could incriminate them. The message of arbitrary meanings is the one before which the censor stands hopeless.

Suppose a Prussian in New York and a Prussian in Berlin are agreed that the word "cotton" in a commercial message shall mean "ships bearing American soldiers." How is the censor to detect that? He cannot, for the reason that the meaning assigned is wholly irrational. Could he by divination discover the significance of "cotton" the rest of a very ordinary message might be intelligible; "500 bales cotton" would easily be seen to say: "Five hundred companies (on) transports."

If the censor is helpless before the message of arbitrary meanings the secret services of warring nations are not. To be of any extended use the arbitrary meanings must be applicable to a good many objects, too many to memorize. Therefore a code book or some form of memorandum must be kept. When found it gives away everything and consigns the possessor to whatever form of sudden death may be most expedient in the circumstances. And a secret service can verify even the most humdrum commercial message. It can find out all about the business of the sender or receiver. It will find out whether those 500 bales of cotton have tangible existence or not. If they have not it is time to search persons and premises without a moment's delay.

The vigilance of the British censorship has become so sharp that information destined for the enemy has mostly to be carried personally to a neutral country. This is slow and highly dangerous for the courier. In the case of this country, with a long coastline and a neutral neighbor, the problem of censoring persons is multiplied many fold. It can do no harm, however, and may be productive of great good, for Americans generally to observe with attention the comings and goings of strangers as well on the seaboard as along the banks of the Rio Grande.

Certain Doubtful Unfortunate Citizens of the United States.

We sympathize with the patriotic citizens of this country of German birth or ancestry who are barred by the regulations of the State Department from fulfilling their ambition to serve the United States abroad in the Red Cross. Their disappointment and humiliation are understandable; and to this has been added the embarrassment resulting from the exposure of their cause by every agency that in the United States does the Kaiser's bidding.

The pestiferous German language newspapers that seek to set the minds of their readers against the cause of the United States, the professional baiters of England who endeavor to poison our minds against our ally, the paid agitators whose Prussian uniforms were put on when their pockets were filled with money and will be taken off as soon as the wage of their betrayal ceases to be paid; the whole debased and traitorous crew has now seized on this unfortunate incident in order to bolster their treason inspired propaganda. Their insincere utterances are dinned into unwilling ears whenever opportunity offers, and their detestable suggestions are reiterated wherever the opening exists.

The unhappy victims of this consciousness exploitation are doubly made sufferers. Their praiseworthy desire to aid their country is balked by the inevitable restrictions imposed by the conflict in which they wish to aid, and their plight is made the excuse for clamorous expression of condolence from sources their honorable nature must hold in detestation. Yet the unwanted support their cause is receiving must make apparent to them the necessity of some regulation such as that which circumscribes the possibilities of their usefulness. The vociferous pro-Prussians who now display a fictitious anger at the course of this Government want to utilize the national services of this country to betray the United States, and if they had their way they would load the Red Cross with spies.

Censorship and Spies.

If the submission of press despatches from Europe to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Head Janitor of the House of Representatives or to anybody else will foil one Prussian plot against American soldiers or sailors, or deliver one Prussian spy to the common hangman, THE SUN will submit cheerfully to it in the process, and it is confident that its readers will utter no complaint. THE SUN is glad to sacrifice its constitutional and legal rights in such a cause; if anybody who now reads THE SUN chafes under the restriction thereby imposed on the news columns, THE SUN desires that individual to disassociate himself from this newspaper's family immediately and permanently.

But THE SUN does not believe that any press despatch from Europe or from Washington or from any other part of the world sent before or since the United States entered the war, has occasioned a single attack on an American ship; and THE SUN's only wish